REMARKS

The Examiner has allowed claims 7-10 and 27.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 11-17, 24-25 and 28-34 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,996,023 to Winter *et al.* ("Winter") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,371,551 to Logan *et al.* ("Logan") in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,069,655 to Seeley *et al.* ("Seeley"), claims 5-6 as obvious over Winter in view of Logan in view of Seeley in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,414,994 to Hazra ("Hazra"), claim 26 as obvious over Winter in view of Logan in view of Seeley in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,662 to Burt *et al.* ("Burt"). The Examiner has also rejected claims 36-37 and 40 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,956,424 to Wootton ("Wootton '424") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,937,092 to Wootton ("Wootton '092"), claim 38 as obvious over Wootton '424 in view of Wootton '092 in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,276 to Adiletta *et al.* ("Adiletta"), claim 39 as obvious over Wootton '424 in view of Wootton '092 in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,751,346 to Dozier *et al.* ("Dozier").

Claims 18-23 were withdrawn from consideration and have now been cancelled. Claims 5-6 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 34-35 were previously canceled. Therefore, claims 1-4, 11, 13-17, 24-26, 28-33 and 36-40 are at issue in this response.

I. Claims 1-4, 11, 13-17 and 42

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 based upon the combination of Winter and Logan and Seeley. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as set forth below.

Claim 1 has been amended to require an image processor configured to process blocks of pixels and to compare each of said blocks against a corresponding block from said previously established reference image of a scene to determine if any changes have occurred therein. The claim further requires that the processor be configured to identify which of said blocks in said

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video images have changed relative to the corresponding block in said previously established reference image. The claim also requires a memory associated with said image processor configured to store said reference image and said identified changed blocks in said memory.

The combination of Winter, Logan and Seeley do not disclose or suggest these elements. The Examiner has implicitly agreed that at least the element of "the image processor is configured to store said reference image and said identified changed blocks in said memory" is not disclosed in the prior art in allowing claim 7. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is seen as allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Winter, Logan and Seeley.

Claims 2-4, 11, 13-17 and 42 all depend from claim 1 and include the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, those claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

II. Claims 24-26 and 41

Claim 24 requires "an image processor configured to compare said plurality of video images generated by said cameras with a plurality of previously established reference images of said at least one scene to identify any regions of change therein, said processor configured to store only those regions of said video images which differ from said a corresponding region of the reference image and the reference image."

The combination of Winter, Logan and Seeley does not disclose storing only those regions of said video images which differ from said a corresponding region of the reference image and the reference image in a memory. As with claim 1, above, the Examiner has implicitly acknowledged this in allowing claim 7.

Claims 25, 26 and 41 all depend from claim 24 and include the limitations of claim 24. Therefore, those claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 24.

III. Claims 28-33

Claim 28 requires "comparing blocks of the video image represented by a digital signal with corresponding blocks of a previously established reference of the scene to determine if any changes have occurred in any of the blocks therein, and storing the contents of said blocks in a memory if the block differs from the corresponding block of the reference image with date and time data appended to each stored video image represented by a digital signal."

The combination of Winter, Logan and Sceley does not disclose comparing blocks of the video image represented by a digital signal with corresponding blocks of a previously established reference of the scene to determine if any changes have occurred in any of the blocks therein nor storing the contents of said blocks in a memory if the block differs from the corresponding block of the reference image. Therefore, claim 28 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 29-33 all depend from claim 28 and include the limitations of claim 28. Therefore, those claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 28.

IV. Claims 36-40

Claim 36 was rejected as obvious over Wootton '424 in view of Wootton '092. In making the rejection the Examiner states that Wootton discloses every element of the claim except the limitation of "said reference image associated block map consists of at least one binary representation of a corresponding pixel block comprising a video image, a first binary representation indicating an unchanged pixel block, and a second binary representation indicating a changed pixel block." The Examiner then elaborates that Wootton '092 discloses using binary edge mapping techniques. Applicants traverse this rejection and note that the edge mapping of Wootton '092 is not the same as the quoted element the Examiner indicates is missing from Wootton '424.

Neither Wootton reference discloses dividing an image of a scene of interest into blocks, comparing each block to a corresponding block of a reference image, and indicating whether each block of an image has changed or not with a binary representation within an image map. Therefore, claim 36 is not obvious in view of the Wootton references and should be allowed.
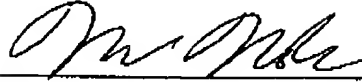
Claims 37 and 40 depend from claim 36 and include the limitation therein. Claims 37 and 40 are allowable over the Wootton references for at least the same reasons as claim 36.

Claim 38 was rejected in view of Wootton '424, Wootton '092 and Adiletta. Claim 39 was rejected in view of Wootton '424, Wootton '092 and Dozier. Neither Dozier nor Adiletta disclose the element of "said reference image associated block map consists of at least one binary representation of a corresponding pixel block comprising a video image, a first binary representation indicating an unchanged pixel block, and a second binary representation indicating a changed pixel block" of claim 36 missing from the combination of the Wootton references, nor does the Examiner assert such is the case. Therefore, claims 38 and 39 are allowable over the prior art based upon the same reasoning as claim 36.

V. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the allowance of claims 1-4, 7-11, 13-17, 24-33 and 36-42 is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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